

UNKNOWN NEWSPAPER Unknown Date

ROSIKRUCIAN CASE.

Before Mr. Justice Scrutton and a common jury the hearing was concluded of the action for damages for alleged libel brought by Mr. George Cecil Jones, consulting chemist, of Great Tower-street, against the Looking Glass Publishing Company, and others.

The statements complained of were published in a series of articles in the weekly paper *The Looking Glass* which dealt with Mr. Aleister Crowley, who put himself forward as the high priest of a sect, and the articles described various proceedings. There was the headline, "By their friends ye shall know them," and a passage which stated that two of Crowley's friends and introducers were still associated with him—"one the rascally sham Buddhist monk, Allan Bennett. . . . the other a person of the name of George Cecil Jones."

The defendants pleaded that the words complained of were not capable of bearing a defamatory meaning and were also fair comment.

Mr. Simmons (instructed by Messrs. Bullock and Co.) appeared for the plaintiff; Mr. Schiller (instructed by Mr. Gottlieb) appeared for the defendant publishing company; Mr. Fenton, the editor appeared in person; and Mr. Rowlands (instructed by Messrs. White and Leonard) represented the printers.

Mr. MacGregor stated that Crowley was expelled from the Rosicrucian Order in 1905 because he had circulated libels against the witness, the head of the Order, and was working against the interests of the Order.

Dr. Berridge, of Gloucester-terrace, Hyde Park, called on behalf of the defendants, said he was a member of the Rosicrucian Order, and added that about 1900 there were rumours about Crowley, and he spoke to him about them. Crowley, he stated, made an extraordinary statement in reply, winding up by saying that the police could not find out anything about him for more than eighteen months or two years.

The jury found that the words defamatory of the plaintiff were true and fair comment, and that no damage had been caused to the plaintiff. Judgment was entered for the defendants.